Region 2 Headquarters 3201 Spurgin Road Missoula, MT 59804 Phone 406-542-5500 September 12, 2011

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to accept the donation of approximately 68 acres of private land adjoining the Calf Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), 7 miles east of Hamilton in Ravalli County. The WMA addition would protect elk winter range and improve public access.

The EA may be viewed on FWP's Internet website http://fwp.mt.gov ("Submit Public Comments," beginning September 12). The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; or by emailing shrose@mt.gov. Comments may also be directed to Sharon Rose by mail, phone or email at these contacts. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 11, 2011.

FWP will hold a public hearing in Hamilton on September 28th, Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the US Forest Service headquarters (1801 North 1st Street) to discuss the proposal and take public comment.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its November 10th meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Mack Long \ Regional Supervisor

ML/sr